

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on January 21, 2005 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Duane Grimes (R)
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)
Sen. Glenn Roush (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Jon Tester (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Annie Glover, Committee Secretary
Pat Murdo, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 134, 1/18/2005; SB 209,
1/18/2005; SB 211, 1/18/2005
Executive Action: None.

00:00:00_____

HEARING ON SB 209

Opening Statement by Sponsor: SEN. MIKE WHEAT (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 209, Regulate postclaim underwriting.

00:03:27

Proponents' Testimony:

Mr. Randy Bishop, attorney representing insurance consumers and companies

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus16a01)

Mr. Don Harris, attorney representing self

Mr. Patrick Driscoll, Chief Legal Council, State Auditors Office

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus16a02)

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus16a03)

Mr. Jed Fitch, Montana Trial Lawyers Association

00:20:27

Opponents' Testimony:

Mr. Frank Cote, America's Health Insurance Plans

Mr. Bruce Spencer, Montana Automobile Dealers Association

Ms. Tanya Ask, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana

Ms. Angela Huschka, New West Health Services

Ms. Mona Jamison, The Doctor's Company

Informational Testimony: None.

00:31:11

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Question referred to:

Mr. John Holbrook, Compliance Specialist, Montana Department of Insurance, State Auditor's Office

01:06:10

Closing by Sponsor:

01:10:41_____

HEARING ON SB 134

Opening Statement by Sponsor: SEN. MIKE WHEAT (D), SD 32, opened the hearing on SB 134, Revise captive insurance company laws.

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus16a04)

01:13:33

Proponents' Testimony:

Mr. Patrick Driscoll, Chief Legal Council, State Auditors Office

Mr. Larry Kibbee, Attorneys Liability Protection Society
Ms. Amy Minto, Attorneys Liability Protection Society
Mr. Ken Crippen, CEO, American Trucking and Transportation
Insurance Company
Mr. Dick Brown, Montana Health Association
Ms. Brenda Olson, President of ORG Risk Management, ORG Captive
Management, Rocky Mountain Captive Insurance Associates

Opponents' Testimony: None.

01:25:40

Informational Testimony:

Mr. John Huth, Captive Coordinator, State Auditors Office

01:28:28

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:35:24

Closing by Sponsor:

01:37:00 Break

01:43:38

HEARING ON SB 211

Opening Statement by Sponsor: SEN. KEN (KIM) HANSEN (D), SD 17,
opened the hearing on SB 211, Clarify plumbing activities for
which permit not required.

01:47:24

Proponents' Testimony:

Mr. Carl Schweitzer, Associated Plumbing and Heating Contractors
of Montana

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus16a05)

Mr. Mick Brown, Brown Plumbing, Vice President, Associated
Plumbing and Heating Contractors of Montana

[EXHIBIT](#)(bus16a06)

Mr. J.D. Lynch, Montana State Building Trades

Mr. Neil Poulsen, Building Official, City of Bozeman

Mr. Dave Nielson, City Attorney, City of Helena, Montana League
of Cities and Towns

Ms. Jani McCall, City of Billings

Mr. Robert Skiba, Master Plumber, City of Great Falls

Mr. Jeff Jenkins, Building Official, City of Great Falls

Opponents' Testimony: None.

02:07:03

Informational Testimony:

Mr. Jim Brown, Administrator, Business Standards Division

02:08:28

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:30:13

Closing by Sponsor:

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:35 A.M.

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

ANNIE GLOVER, Secretary

VC/ag

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([bus16aad0.PDF](#))